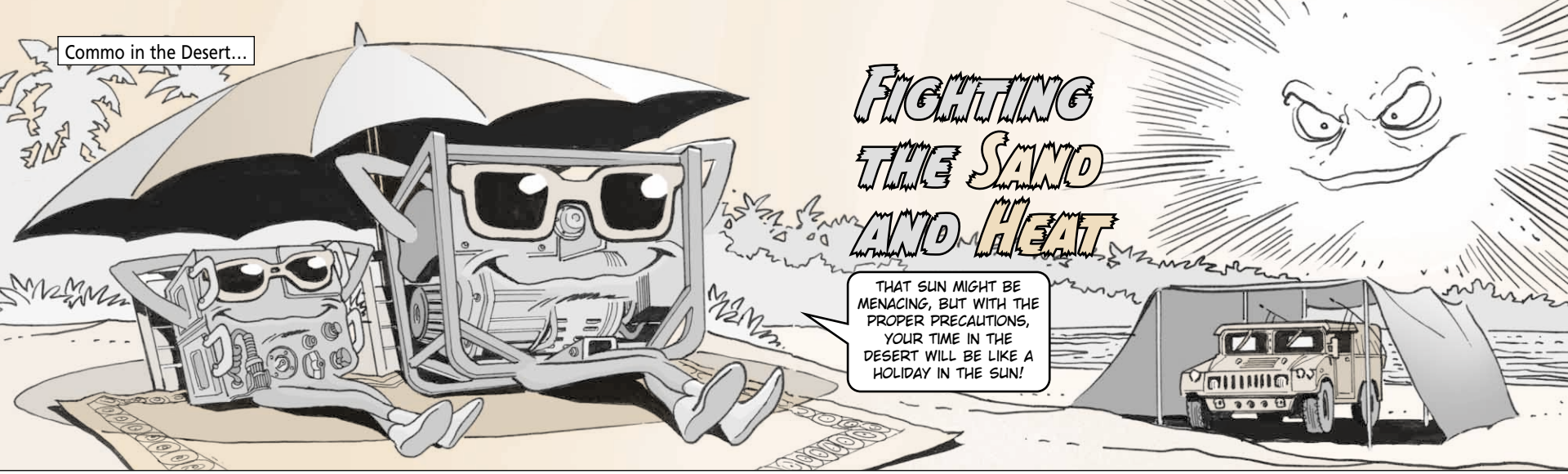
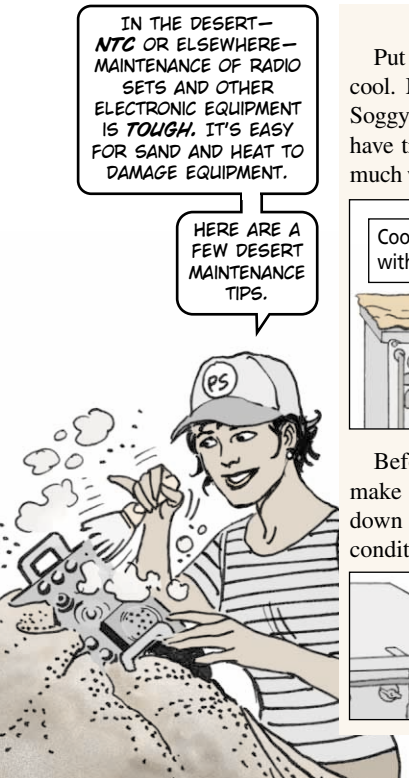
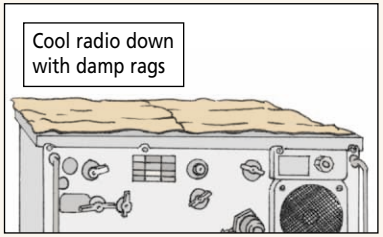


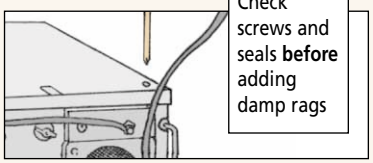


Good Moisture

Put damp rags on the tops of radios to keep them cool. Make sure the rags are damp, not soaking wet. Soggy rags lead to water inside the radio. Some of you have tried letting ice melt on top of a set. Don't. That much water assures some will get inside and do damage.

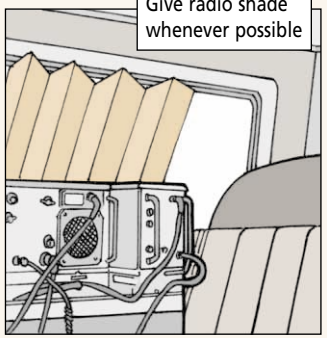


Before you put on the damp rag, make sure all screws are screwed down tight and all seals are in good condition.



Of course, whenever possible, shade your radio. Use cardboard or your vehicle's canvas top. Anything will help that keeps the glaring sun off the radio, but doesn't hold in the heat.

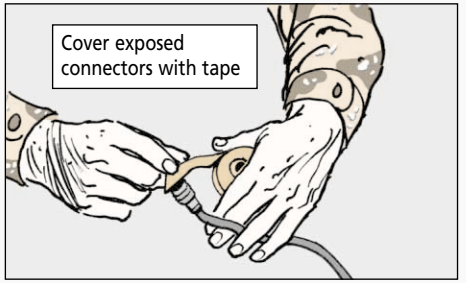
A fan will run itself to death trying to cool your radio in the desert. Give the radio the moisture-and-shade treatment to help the fan.



Bad Moisture

Overnight, condensation forms on metal surfaces that are cooler than the air temperature.

This condensation can affect electrical plugs, jacks and connectors. If condensation is affecting your commo connectors, tape over all connectors that may be exposed to moisture overnight. This prevents that moisture from contaminating the contacts.

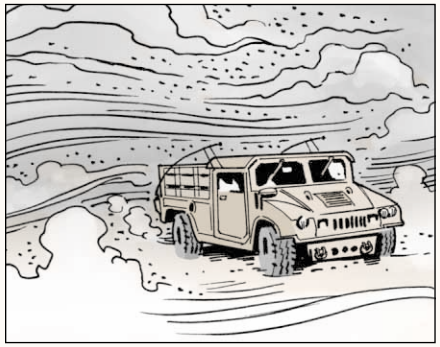


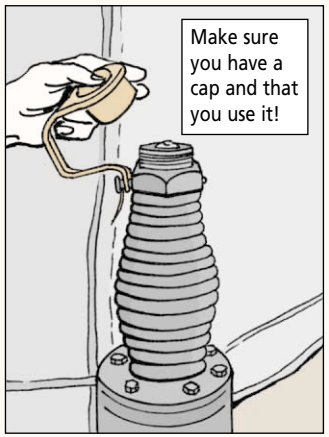
Plugs should be dried before inserting them into equipment jacks. Excessive moisture or dew should be removed from antenna connectors to prevent arcing.

No Moisture

Static electricity is common in the desert. It's caused by wind-blown sand and extremely low humidity. Poor grounding conditions aggravate the problem. Make sure your equipment is properly grounded.

Be sure to use tip caps on all antennas to cut down on wind-caused static discharges.

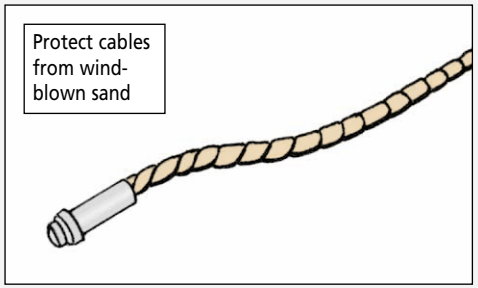


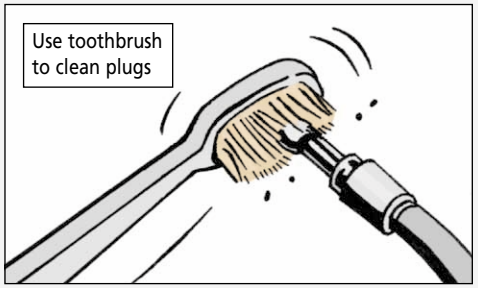


Electrical Insulation

Wind-blown sand and grit will damage electrical wire insulation over a period of time. All exposed cables should be protected with tape or large shrink-wrap tubing before insulation becomes worn. Of course, keep dust caps on all cable connectors when not in use.

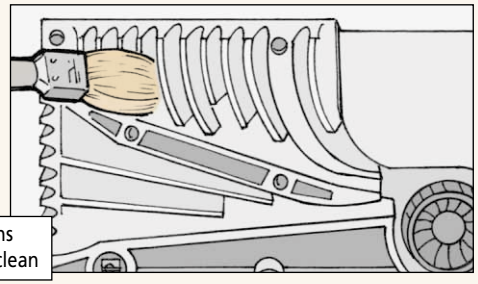
Sand will also find its way into parts of items such as spaghetti cord plugs, either preventing electrical contact or making it impossible to join the plugs together. Carry an old toothbrush and use it to clean plugs before they are joined.





A Little More Cleaning

Keep all cooling fans clean and their vents clear of all clogging sand, dust and dirt. Use a brush or compressed air—whatever your equipment TM says—to clean the fan and the areas around it.



Some Things to Check

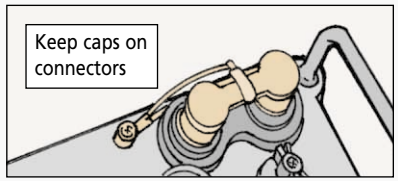
If you have any broken or missing knobs, switches or connectors, get them replaced.

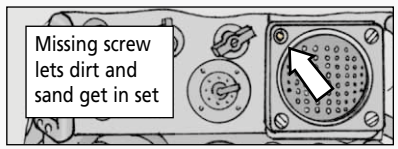
Dirt and sand work into the connectors and keep the contacts from touching. If they're dirty or making bad contact, clean them with low-pressure air or a soft brush.

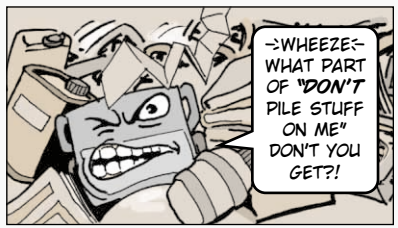
Keep connector caps on audio connectors to keep out dirt and sand when the radio's not in use.

If you have loose or missing panel or cover screws, tighten or replace them. A missing screw lets dirt and sand get in set.

Give your commo equipment room to breathe. If you pile gear on or around it, heat quickly builds up. Keep field gear, maps, manuals and other items away from the RT blower fan. Blocking the airflow will cause the heat to build up inside your set.







Make sure loose latches and mounts are tightened properly or repaired. They can cause commo equipment to bounce out on a rough desert ride.

Check the whip antenna's mast base to be sure the contact is clean. Use low pressure air or a soft brush to clean it.